

Unsettled, with rain to-day and probably to-morrow; increasing northeast winds. Highest temperature yesterday, 40; lowest, 33. Detailed weather reports will be found on Editorial page.

THE NEW YORK HERALD

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THE BEST IN ITS HISTORY.

The New York Herald, with all that was best of The Sun intertwined with it, and the whole revitalized, is a bigger and better and sounder newspaper than ever before.

PLEA FOR U. S. ENTRY AT FIRST LEAGUE SESSION

Superstate Idea Attacked at the Opening of World Assembly.

HYMANS IS PRESIDENT

Tittoni's Stand on Delegates Kills Expected Fight on Lord Cecil.

NO APPLAUSE FOR WILSON

Gathering Called Association of Peoples, Not an Alliance of Governments.

By LAURENCE HILLS.

Special Cable to The New York Herald. GENEVA, Nov. 15.—A stirring appeal by Giuseppe Motta, President of Switzerland, that the United States open without delay her place in the League of Nations, and the quick quiescence which was put on the super-state idea in the discussions on credentials were the two outstanding features of the first meeting of the Assembly of the League of Nations, born of the peace conference and the Wilson covenant. Here in this city, hallowed by memories of the Reformation, this gathering of representatives of forty-one nations to-day was impressive as an ideal which may yet be attained, but which, as an experiment, is still uncertain as regards its outcome.

For the man who was chiefly responsible for this experiment in a world parliament there was not even a ripple of applause when the assembly opened—not a handclap for the man who, two years ago, was hailed rapturously as the embodiment of an ideal. Indeed, his name signed to the call for the assembly meeting did not evoke a single handclap, and only slight applause followed M. Motta's appeal that the country of Washington and Lincoln would not refuse the appeal of its sister nations to work together for world peace and the prosperity of humanity.

At the evening session, however, a resolution offered by George Nicoll, member of the British delegation, that the assembly send a message of sympathy to President Wilson was adopted.

Insists League Must Live.

Admitting that this first covenant is defective, M. Motta insisted that the league must live; that the treaty was unworkable and not capable of being executed without it, and that even if the first meeting of the Assembly accomplished only the international Council of Justice, it would have paved the way for a solution of the problem of international conflicts.

"The league is not an alliance of governments; it is an association of peoples," he said.

This was regarded as a palpable effort by the President of Switzerland to disarm American criticism of the league covenant.

Paul Hymans, formerly Belgian Foreign Minister, was elected president of the league. In his reply to the welcoming address of the President of Switzerland he insisted that the covenant was imperfect.

"We should state again that the league is not and must not be a super-state which aims at absorbing national sovereignties or reducing them to bondage," he said.

This attitude toward a super-state body was again emphasized later in the proceedings when Tommaso Tittoni, Italian delegate, vigorously protested against the proposal that the secretary-general of the league have the right to examine the credentials of a delegate. Signor Tittoni contended that a government had a right to send whom it pleased to represent it.

No Row Over Lord Robert Cecil.

This expression of opinion seemed to settle the row over Lord Robert Cecil, who came to the meeting as the representative of South Africa—a representative against which France had protested. Therefore, it was regarded as significant when France to-day moved that Lord Robert's credentials be approved without question, which was carried. Signor Tittoni's views were vigorously applauded throughout the entire hall.

In this and in other matters this first expression of opinion moved along according to ordinary parliamentary procedure.

The meeting opened with great éclat, the people of Geneva thronging the streets while airplanes circled over the city. Before the first session was ended conflicting undercurrents of national politics became discernible. There were many indications that trouble was ahead.

View Golden Gate for \$60,000,000 Naval Base

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 15.—Members of a special Congressional committee of twenty, inspecting sites proposed for naval bases and stations in various parts of the country, arrived here to-day from Oregon and Washington to select a site for a new base on San Francisco Bay.

Representative Fred A. Britten, Chicago, chairman, said the base here would cost \$60,000,000.

CLAIM DEFEAT OF VENIZELOS

Opposition Leaders Announce Victory and Cabinet Virtually Admits It.

CONSTANTINE IS ISSUE

Only 400 of 3,000 Districts Heard From—Premier Still Has Chance to Win.

Greek Opposition's Success Confirmed

PARIS, Nov. 15.—A Havas despatch from Athens says the known results confirm the success of the Opposition in the election of the Venizelist candidates, which it will carry 250 seats. Government papers assert that the Venizelist Government still maintains a small majority in the new Chamber.

By the Associated Press. ATHENS, Nov. 15.—The definite result of the elections is not yet known, but according to returns from Attica and Boeotia the Government list has been beaten. The struggle continues in the provinces.

The result of the army vote has not yet been received, but it is expected to favor the Government.

There have been a number of serious election fights in Athens. Troops were fired on at Salonika and elsewhere. Soldiers were stationed at the homes of the opposition leaders all night in order to protect them. Many persons fear that there will be further trouble.

The opposition claims a sweeping victory, even the personal defeat of Venizelos in the city of Piræus.

The result of the elections is a great surprise to the Government, which announces it will resign if it is defeated. The Venizelists are alarmed, but insist that nothing is certain as yet, because the results of only 400 out of 3,000 districts are known.

The Cabinet met this morning and later issued the following communication:

"It is evident that the Government was mistaken in its expectations regarding the elections. Although definite results are not yet known, it will await these results so as to turn over the power to the party designated by the popular suffrage in conformity with the constitution, without awaiting convocation of the Chamber."

Situation May Change.

The Government's announcement virtually admits the defeat of the Venizelists. Should Premier Venizelos be unsuccessful in obtaining a majority of twenty-five votes in the Chamber of Deputies, it is considered he will be unable to solve the dynamic problem. While present indications are that he will not have 250 Venizelist Deputies from Athens, Piræus and the districts at the front have been counted, however, the situation may change in his favor.

The announcement by the Cabinet that it will resign if it is beaten is considered here as a significant indication of the results of the balloting. The Venizelist organs are gloomy, their editors tacitly admitting that the Premier will not have a majority even if he is not defeated.

The opposition claims the election of 200 Deputies, with a majority in ancient Greece. It is rumored that if Venizelos goes down to defeat the British will prevent the landing of former King Constantine, declaring that his return to power is impossible.

The Opposition's surprising vote is attributed in some quarters to overconfidence on the part of the Venizelists. The Premier's absence from Greece during part of the campaign and his interest in foreign affairs, as well as the silent organization of the opposition, are also mentioned as factors.

The Opposition made their appearance wearing the olive branch, the emblem of the Opposition.

The Deputies in the present Chamber adhering to former King Constantine and who have abstained from attending Parliament since May 31, 1915, are said to be planning their return to the new Parliament with the purpose of creating a strong opposition to the Venizelists and renewing the charges which have been current during the present campaign.

Prince Paul's Decision.

The issue of the campaign was the return of former King Constantine to his throne, from which he was deposed during the world war. Following the death of King Alexander, three weeks ago, the throne was claimed by his young brother, Prince Paul, who in answer to a virtual demand that the Greek people pass on the question whether King Constantine should come back from exile. Only in the event the people decided against Constantine and would not accept Prince George, eldest son of Constantine, he said, would he consider accepting the Greek Government's offer.

Premier Venizelos led the forces opposing the return of Constantine.

In Athens no serious incidents occurred except a few minor clashes between the two camps.

Continued on Second Page.

OWNERS HELD FOR HOMICIDE IN MOVIE PANIC

Charged With Admitting Children Without Guardians—Janitor Held.

NO EXIT WAS LOCKED

Drennan and Kenon Say Theatre Was Inspected Saturday Night.

NO FIRE LAWS VIOLATED

Officials Say Tragedy Unpreventable—Other Theatres Inspected.

Fire Commissioner Thomas J. Drennan and John Kenon, Chief of the Fire Department, said last night that their investigation into the panic at the New Catharine moving picture theatre Sunday afternoon, in which six children were killed and many others injured, had disclosed no violations of the fire laws, nor had they found any evidence to indicate that one of the exit doors was locked, as had been reported. At the same time Alfred J. Talley, Assistant District Attorney, said he had not been able to obtain evidence sufficient to ask the Grand Jury to indict the proprietors and the janitor of the theatre, all of whom are under arrest.

Commissioner Drennan and Chief Kenon said that the theatre building in 76 Catharine street complied with all the fire laws, with some of them unusually well. They declared that the tragedy was appalling but unpreventable, likely to occur at any time in a crowded theatre when the cry of fire is raised.

"There is nothing to indicate that an exit door was locked," Commissioner Drennan said. "The owners assure us that the padlock there was a dummy one, designed probably to keep boys from stealing pastries to the gallery. It could be opened when they examined it. The building was inspected and approved on Friday, and again as late as Saturday night, by firemen and an inspector from the Bureau of Public Places."

The owners of the theatre, Max Schwartz of 457 East 156th street, The Bronx, and Barnett Weinberg of 637 East 156th street, The Bronx, and Joseph Polak of 414 First street in the Tombs court and held in \$10,000 bail each on "suspicion of homicide." They will be examined Friday.

After that while he had no evidence to indicate that the three men had been guilty of any crime more serious than a misdemeanor in allowing minors into the theatre, his investigation would continue. Mr. Talley also said that the evidence now in hand indicates that the exit door was locked at the time of the panic. He said that the janitor, Benjamin D. Dineen, another Assistant District Attorney, said, however, that they had obtained "ample" evidence that children had been admitted in violation of the law.

Used Former Owner's License.

The fact that the theatre owners, who only bought the property Friday, were operating under the license of the previous owner is another misdemeanor which the Department of Licenses is expected to prosecute.

Chief of Police Benjamin Dineen, said that the theatre was licensed to admit 250 persons, and that the box office records show the sale of 200 tickets from opening time up to the time of the panic, the third performance being then under way.

With the owners in jail and nobody responsible on hand to direct things, the theatre that proved to be a death trap was left yesterday. A policeman stood guard over the property and shooed away the morbid children still crazy for the movies turned to death in the great meadow.

"A defective human intellect must be blamed as the cause of the disaster, and that is something you cannot guard against. It certainly showed a defect somewhere to start a new fire in a cold theatre."

Defective Human Intellect.

"If all the audience in that gallery had been children, probably none would have been killed," Chief Kenon said. "The youngsters would not have been able to crush each other the way the grownups trampled on them."

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Continued on Second Page.

U. S. Railroads Report Gain of 30,000 Cars

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15.—Another indication of the return of railroads to pre-war conditions in operation was said by the Railway Executives' Association to-day to be shown in an estimate that 31.3 per cent. of all cars were located on their home lines on November 1.

This was reported as a gain of 30,000 cars over the condition reported October 1, and as compared with a percentage of 21.9 in cars in possession of their owning companies on March 1 last.

Inspector Discharged for Sending Sample Rivets to White House.

PROTEST NOT HEADED

Technical Work Trusted to Novices After Three Weeks' Training.

MORE GRAFT REVEALED

Commander of Craft Tells of Opposing \$100,000 Deal for Fake Repairs.

The Congressional Select Committee on Shipping Board operations, resuming its hearings at the Federal Building into the charges of graft and mismanagement under Government operation of shipping, listened yesterday to the recounting of two picturesque tales.

At the morning session Capt. William Henry Chambliss, once the master of the steamship Lake Elkwood, told of his ejection a year ago from his own vessel in Rio de Janeiro when he refused to enter into a conspiracy by which the Government would have been robbed of \$100,000 for unnecessary "repairs."

In the afternoon Thomas A. Purcell, formerly a hull inspector for the Shipping Board, explained in colorful language how he lost his job on a charge of insubordination when his workman's conscience would not let him send a new ship to sea with its plates "full of rotten riveting from one end to the other."

Seen Short Life for Ships.

Purcell came into the committee room with a box of rivets under one arm and a huge bundle of letters, drawings and other documents under the other. In the course of the preliminary questioning by Representative Joseph Walsh, chairman of the committee, Purcell admitted that of the good, right and left handed riveter as ever picked up a hammer. He said he was appointed a hull inspector and assigned to the Submarine Boat Corporation at Newark, N. J., on March 25, 1918. Later he was sent to the United States Shipping Board at Washington.

"The fiercest lot of riveting I ever saw," said Purcell, "was pulled off at the works of the Shipbuilding Corporation. The men were wholly inexperienced. It was especially bad on hulls 13 and 14. Why, the men there knew no more about riveting than a pig knows about playing 'jewish'."

"Do you think whatever defective riveting was done on these ships made them unsafe?" asked Chairman Walsh. "If I rivets and sent them to sea," replied Purcell, "and she was launched alongside the dock, I would want to keep one eye open."

Purcell said that riveters were given the work of training and then put to work on ships. He approved respectfully in that short time the novices would come to be regarded as experts. He said that many of the men encouraged by bribes, would do an enormous amount of work and consequently dangerous. He said that none of the ships, with the possible exception of these built at New York, could be expected to hold together for more than a few days.

Repeated refusals to approve defective work, the witness said, brought upon him the displeasure of his immediate superiors.

He was asked, in common with a few other conscientious inspectors, he said, that accidents and loss of life might happen to the poorly constructed vessels. He said that he was sent to the approval to the work would be held responsible and "sent across the line."

Purcell caused a laugh when he told of how, in desperation, he banded up a rivet and sent him to the President Wilson. When he got a letter of acknowledgment, he said, he was called into the main office of the Submarine Boat Corporation and he was told to work for the Standard Shipbuilding Corporation. There, he said, conditions were even worse. He said the workmen were getting away with murder and that he "never saw anything like it in my own days."

His objections to work on the hulls of the Dallas and the Shooter Island, he said, were ignored and he went to see Basil Major of 115 Broadway, Shipping Board director for the district. Major, he said, sent him to Philadelphia, where he was discharged for insubordination.

Purcell told of a conference he had with Edward N. Hurley, director of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, at the Hotel Elmsford, where he said he was given a letter of reprimand. He said that he was then sent to the Standard Shipbuilding Corporation, where he was discharged for insubordination.

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SAYS AMATEURS BUILT U. S. SHIPS; FEARS DISASTER

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INTERMYER FORCES BOARD TO HUNT SCHOOL GRAFT; PALMER WITHHELD HIS AID

Indicted Builder Challenges in Court Lockwood's Right to Administer Oaths

A CONTENTION, which, if upheld, would have the effect of nullifying all of the work of the Lockwood Legislative Committee, was made yesterday before Judge Mulqueen in General Sessions by Edmund L. Mooney, counsel for George Backer, millionaire builder, who was indicted for perjury as a result of his testimony before the committee. Mr. Mooney attacked the constitutional standing of the committee.

Samuel Untermyer, counsel for the committee, said there was no ground for Mr. Mooney's argument that the committee had no power to administer oaths to witnesses after the session of the Legislature had adjourned. Mr. Untermyer denounced the argument as frivolous, but Judge Mulqueen said the point raised was serious and one to which careful thought must be given. He reserved decision.

ADMITS AID IN TRAIN ROBBERY WAS IN HEAVEN, SAYS PHYSICIAN

Mail Sorter Confesses Complicity in \$1,000,000 Theft in Council Bluffs, Ia.

9 POUCHES CARRIED OFF

Two Bandits Escape in Motor Car—3 Suspects Held—Crime Planned in Pool Hall.

Special Despatch to The New York Herald. COUNCIL BLUFFS, Ia., Nov. 15.—Dr. Howard G. Case, professor at Syracuse University, and one of this city's most prominent physicians, told a large congregation at the Purman Street M. E. Church last night how he had a glimpse of heaven and the golden city of God, heard a song by a celestial choir and had a conversation with "an old man with white hair and whiskers," presumably St. Peter. He told this story while describing his sensations during a recent automobile accident, when a car overturned and killed his wife and another woman. Dr. Case was hurt and was in a serious condition for several weeks.

"I did not know anything about the space of time after the car turned over," said Dr. Case, "but I recall hearing a hissing noise. I looked at my wife underneath the wreck and she seemed to be very happy. Her face fairly shone with joy. We both turned and then we saw a man with long white hair and whiskers. Then we were amazed to look into the distance and see a golden city."

"The man asked me who was going to rise up and save the world from wickedness. He said it was getting more wicked all the time. I could not give him an answer. There was one spot in the center of the golden city which seemed to shine brighter than the rest. I asked him why this was, and he said that that was where God had his throne. Then he asked me if I wanted to hear some music, and a vast number of voices began to sing. It was certainly the most wonderful thing I have ever seen or heard."

"Right after the singing stopped it seemed that clouds appeared and my wife was separated from me and also from the beautiful surroundings. I saw my wife's loss to me is very great, but I would not want her to leave that beautiful place."

"This loss was worth more to me than all the wealth of the world. It is a comfort and a blessing to know where I left my wife. In the vision the man beside the wreck told me that my wife had just been killed in an automobile accident. He said she had been taken away from me because I had been too extravagant with her. He told me the world was too full of suffering and poverty for a few people to think of nothing but spending money. I had to admit that I thought he was right. My fault is to have been too clear to me since that accident."

FORD COULDN'T MAKE HIM BLINK; JUDGE DID FORMALLY PROCLAIMS

DANZIG A FREE CITY Junk King's Anti-Speed Excuse Costs \$25.

Col. Strutt Cheered When He Praises German Army.

Special Despatch to The New York Herald. CHICAGO, Nov. 15.—By a jury of Chicagoans, "Junk King," was yesterday for speeding. Today he was before Judge Gemmill in Auto Speeders' Court charged with reckless driving.

Your Honor, the motorcycle cop tells a big lie when he says I was going faster than a horse. My Ford, protested Abe. "Furthermore, I can prove the car can go thirty miles an hour. I know all about junk."

"But the policeman has sworn you were travelling thirty miles an hour," admonished Judge Gemmill.

"Listen, Judge," pleaded Abe. "I never look at my speedometer when driving. When I go twenty miles an hour my eyes get watery, at twenty-five they get hazy, and at thirty, why I blink so bad I can't see where I'm going. Judge, I haven't blinked in that car since I got it."

"Well, I'll make you blink," cut in the Judge. "Twenty-five dollars and costs. Next case."

IRISH BILL IN HOUSE OF LORDS

Passes Its First Reading—Attack on Measure Set for Nov. 23.

LONDON, Nov. 15.—The Irish home rule bill passed its first reading in the House of Lords to-day.

November 23 has been fixed for the second reading of the bill, when its rejection will be moved by Lord Dunsany.

The committee fixed at once that

Lockwood Counsel Calls Halt on Bickerings in Stormy Session.

350 PER CENT. PROFITS

Taxpayers in Strangle Grip of Pirates in Labor Grab. Asserts Untermyer.

BIG REVELATIONS SOON

U. S. Attorney-General's Promised Aid Fails to Show Up in Housing Quest.

Confronted with ample evidence of its shortcomings, the Board of Estimate determined yesterday to start forthwith an investigation of its own into all city contracts in an endeavor to help the Lockwood Committee free New York of the bands of "pirates and buccaners" who have the building industry and the municipality by the throat.

This action was taken after a stormy conference had been held by the board and committee, at which Samuel Untermyer, chief counsel for the legislative inquiry, told the officials that seventy-five per cent. of the municipal contracts were based on collusion and fraud and that the taxpayers were paying bills which represent 350 per cent. profits—which all comes out of the rent.

Mr. Untermyer told the board a lot of other things. The officials started bickering the moment they joined the State probers in conference. The lawyer called a quick halt, telling the Mayor and his associates that the business in hand was too serious to this city for its officials to spend time sparring for verbal advantage. It was up to the board to purge itself, he said.

Only the surface of the building scandal has been scratched. Mr. Untermyer said. The big revelations of wrongdoing are yet to be made, and the Lockwood committee is not going to be sidetracked either to save city officials or to do their duties for them. He gave a slam to the Federal Administration, charging that the inquiry authorized by Attorney-General Palmer was doing nothing to help. The United States attorney has handed a gold brick to the committee, the lawyer said.

City in Grip of Monopolies.

"We have found this entire community in the grip of monopolies, which are from the lowest to the highest. We have a few monopolies, but a lot of the small monopolies. I am going to state and explain to the committee what we shall have to do to attack as we reach them in due time—provided we get from the Federal Government the cooperation that has been given thus far in words, but not in deed."

"Quite incidental to our main inquiry we found the city in the throes of these combinations—these pirates of labor and industry—and we have brought a few to public light. It is now the duty of the city government to end the abuses in its contracts."

"We have only scratched the surface in two or three of the forty odd trades and we must go on if we ever are to get through. We have all the banks and insurance companies to deal with and our accountants are working on this line. You must finish the city job we have started for you."

Mr. Untermyer found the members of the Board of Estimate waiting. As soon as the session was in order, resolutions were offered stating that the city officials were eager to give all possible assistance to the investigators.

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